

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

December 2, 1999

H.R. 1555 Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000

As cleared by the Congress on November 19, 1999

H.R. 1555 would authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for intelligence activities of the U.S. government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System. The act also would make changes to other laws related to intelligence programs.

The Congressional Budget Office was unable to obtain the necessary information to estimate the costs for the entire act because parts are classified at a level above clearances held by CBO employees; however, the unclassified portion of the act would affect direct spending and receipts. CBO estimates that the pay-as-you-go costs of sections 304, 306, and 807 would be small and sum to less than \$500,000 annually. CBO cannot precisely estimate the direct spending effects of section 402 because the necessary data are classified.

Sections 304 and 807 of the act would increase the collections of fines for federal crimes. Section 304 would increase collections by extending certain protections to retired covert agents and assigning corresponding penalties, including fines, to violators who disclose the identity of such agents. Section 807 would increase collections by imposing penalties, including fines, for assisting or financing the activities of certain foreign drug traffickers. Such collections are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund and then spent in subsequent years to compensate victims. CBO estimates that the additional collections resulting from sections 304 and 807 would amount to less than \$500,000 in the first year because the expected number of individuals penalized would be small. CBO estimates negligible revenues or costs in subsequent years because payments out of the fund would likely offset any collections in those years.

Section 306 would allow an individual who is or has been affiliated with a Communist or similar political party to become a naturalized citizen if the individual has made a contribution to the national security or national intelligence mission of the United States. Under current law, such individuals are not allowed to become naturalized citizens, unless the affiliation was involuntary. Enacting this provision could affect certain federal assistance programs and the amount of fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Because the number of affected individuals is expected to be very small, however, CBO estimates that any effects on direct spending would not be significant.

Section 402 of the act would extend the authority of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to offer incentive payments to employees who voluntarily retire or resign. The authority, which expired at the end of fiscal year 1999, would be extended through fiscal year 2002. Section 402 would also require the CIA to make a deposit to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund equal to 15 percent of final pay for each employee who accepts an incentive payment. CBO cannot provide a precise estimate of the direct spending effects because the data for an estimate are classified.

This estimate was prepared by Dawn Sauter. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.